

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT

July Livestock Slaughter
U.S. & Delta States Farm Labor & Wage Rates
Average Prices Received by Farmers
U.S. Rice Stocks

Louisiana Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during July totaled 1.0 million pounds, unchanged from June but 9 percent below the previous year.

There were 1,000 head of **cattle** slaughtered during July, unchanged from June but 200 head below the previous year. Average live weight was 857 pounds, up 14 pounds from the previous month and 8 pounds above July 2003. Total live weight at 877,000 pounds, was 4 percent above the previous month but 12 percent below the previous year.

Calves slaughtered during June totaled 600 head, down 200 head from June and the previous year. Live weight averaged 479 pounds, up 9 pounds from June but 19 pounds below a year ago. Total live weight, at 310,000 pounds, was down 13 percent from June and 25 percent below the previous year.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during July totaled 1,500 head, down 200 head from last month but 100 head above July 2003. Average live weight was 202 pounds, up 6 pounds from June but unchanged from the previous year. Total live weight was 311,000 pounds, down 6 percent from June but 13 percent above a year ago.

The number of sheep slaughtered during July totaled 200 head, up 100 head from June and the same as the previous year. Live weight averaged 76 pounds, down 6 pounds from the previous month and the same as the previous year.

United States Livestock Slaughter

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.71 billion pounds in July, down 8 percent from the 4.05 billion pounds produced in July 2003.

July 2004 contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays. July 2003 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

Beef production, at 2.10 billion pounds, was 14 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.79 million head, down 15 percent from July 2003. The average live weight was up 14 pounds from the previous year, at 1,239 pounds.

Veal production totaled 13.4 million pounds, 9 percent below July a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 69,000 head, down 19 percent from July 2003. The average live weight was 36 pounds above last year, at 325 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.58 billion pounds, down slightly from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.09 million head, slightly below July 2003. The average live weight was unchanged from the previous year, at 262 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 14.2 million pounds, was down 10 percent from July 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 220,800 head, 8 percent below last year. The average live weight was 128 pounds, down 3 pounds from July a year ago.

January to July 2004 commercial red meat production was 26.0 billion pounds, down 4 percent from 2003. Accumulated beef production was down 9 percent from last year; veal was down 11 percent; pork was up 3 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 2 percent

Commercial Livestock Slaughter and Meat Production

Item	Louisiana					United States			
	June	July		January - July		July		January - July	
	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
Number, thousand head									
Cattle	1.0	1.2	1.0	8.4	8.0	3,290.2	2,787.3	21,107.4	19,189.1
Calves	0.8	0.8	0.6	5.4	4.1	84.9	69.0	576.2	498.1
Hogs	1.7	1.4	1.5	14.1	13.3	8,116.1	8,094.8	56,691.8	58,544.1
Sheep & Lambs	0.1	0.2	0.2	1.2	1.1	239.8	220.8	1716.9	1,635.4
Total live weight, thousand pounds									
Cattle	846	991	877	7,405	6,891	4,030,318	3,452,850	25,973,739	23,469,669
Calves	358	412	310	2,737	2,006	24,488	22,418	185,728	165,475
Hogs	332	275	311	2,980	2,749	2,129,775	2,120,793	15,108,100	15,587,228
Sheep & Lambs	11	12	12	117	109	31,303	28,330	229,467	224,629
Average live weight, pounds									
Cattle	843	849	857	882	861	1,225	1,239	1,231	1,223
Calves	470	498	479	507	489	289	325	322	332
Hogs	196	202	202	211	207	262	262	267	266
Sheep & Lambs	82	72	76	97	99	131	128	134	137
Million pounds									
Red Meat	1.0	1.1	1.0	8.6	7.7	4,050.1	3,707.6	27,066.2	26,007.8

Delta States Farm Labor

Farm labor estimates are made for the combined Delta states: Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. The Delta states had 31,000 hired workers on farms and ranches during the week of July 11-17, 2004, up 24 percent from July 2003. Of the 31,000 hired workers, workers who work 150 days or more a year accounted for 74 percent of the total, and workers who work 149 days or fewer account for the remaining 26 percent.

The average wage rate in the Delta states for all hired farm workers was \$7.65 per hour compared to \$7.70 per hour in July 2003. Delta states hired farm workers averaged \$1.45 per hour less than the average U. S. hired farm worker. Livestock workers earned \$7.58 per hour compared to \$8.03 per hour a year earlier. Field workers were earning \$7.26, or 13 cents more per hour this July than last July.

The average numbers of hours worked, at 39.1 hours per week, was 0.2 hours less per week than the current U.S. average of 39.3 hours per week.

United States Farm Labor

There were 1.29 million hired workers on the nation's farms and ranches the week of July 11-17, 2004, up 2 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 953,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 340,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.10 per hour during the July 2004 reference week, up 22 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.42 per hour, up 25 cents from last July, while livestock workers earned \$8.75 per hour compared with \$8.57 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.50 per hour, was up 24 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 39.3 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down 1 percent from a year ago.

Farm Labor & Wage Rates: Delta and United States

Item	Delta ¹			United States		
	July 2003	April 2004	July 2004	July 2003	April ² 2004	July 2004
Hired Workers (All)	25	25	31	1,263	1,084	1,293
Ag Service Workers	---	---	---	320	257	340
Hired Farm Workers	25	25	31	943	827	953
150 Days or More	18	19	23	680	651	637
149 Days or Less	7	6	8	263	176	316
Average Hours Worked (Hired Farm Workers)	38.8	39.8	39.1	39.8	40.6	39.3
Average Wage Rate (Hired Farm Workers)	\$7.70	\$7.86	\$7.65	\$8.88	\$9.23	\$9.10
By Type of Worker						
Field	\$7.13	\$7.75	\$7.26	\$8.17	\$8.47	\$8.42
Livestock	\$8.03	\$7.47	\$7.58	\$8.57	\$8.95	\$8.75

¹ Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

² Revised.

--- Data not published.

Prices Received Index Down

The Preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in August was 120, based on 1990-92=100), 4 points below the July Index. Declines occurred in both the Crop Price Index and the Livestock Price Index. The Crop Index declined 2 points from July, while the Livestock Index decreased 6 points. Producers received higher commodity prices for lettuce, tomatoes, strawberries and cantaloupe. Lower prices were received for broilers, soybeans, dairy and corn. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of tobacco, cattle, grapes and sweet corn offset decreased marketings of wheat, hay, dairy and broilers. The Preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 11 points from August 2003.

The Food Commodities Index declined 3 points from last month to 124. The index stands 14 points above August 2003.

Prices Paid Index Up

The August Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates is 135 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is up 1 point from July and 8 points above August 2003. Higher prices in August for complete feeds, diesel fuel, feeder cattle and nitrogen fertilizers more than offset lower prices for feed grains, other machinery, feed supplements and feed concentrates.

Average Prices Received By Farmers

Item	Louisiana			United States		
	Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
	August 2003	July 2004	August 2004 ¹	August 2003	July 2004	August 2004 ¹
	----- Dollars -----			----- Dollars -----		
Soybeans, per bushel	5.81	2/	2/	5.68	8.46	6.34
Rice, per cwt	5.99	9.14	8.50	5.47	8.79	8.49
Upland Cotton, per pound	.461	.572	.555 ³	.463	.545	.525 ³
Hay, all, baled, per ton	n/a	n/a	n/a	85.00	90.40	89.80
Beef Cattle, per cwt	55.40	70.50	71.60	79.30	88.50	88.10
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	80.50	104.00	105.00	82.90	91.80	91.50
Cows, per cwt	40.70	53.30	52.00	44.50	56.30	55.50
Calves, per cwt	92.60	122.00	123.00	106.00	131.00	131.00
Broilers, live, per pound	n/a	n/a	n/a	.360	.520	.460
Eggs, All, per dozen	n/a	n/a	n/a	.808	.589	.530
Milk, All, per cwt ⁴	n/a	n/a	n/a	13.30	16.00	15.00

¹ Mid-month.

² Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual firms.

³ Preliminary prices are based on sales during the first half of the month.

⁴ Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.
n/a = Not Available.

United States Rice Stocks Down

Rough rice stocks in all positions on August 1, 2004, totaled 19.5 million hundred weight (cwt), down 3 percent from the total on August 1, 2003. Stocks held on farms totaled 571,000 cwt, and off-farm stocks totaled 18.9 million cwt. Long grain varieties accounted for 41 percent of the total rough rice, medium grain accounted for 56 percent, and short grain varieties accounted for 3 percent.

Milled rice stocks in all positions totaled 2.95 million cwt, 35 percent below a year ago. Milled rice stocks were comprised of 2.25 million cwt of whole kernel rice and 705,000 cwt of second heads, screenings, and brewers rice.

United States Rice Stocks

Date	On Farms or Farm Warehouses	In Mills and Attached Warehouses	In Warehouses not Attached to Mills	In Ports or In Transit	Total all Positions
(Domestic Units – 1,000 Cwt)					
<u>Rough Rice</u>					
March 1, 2004	18,325	13,755	55,150	610	87,840
August 1, 2004	571	6,085	12,819	40	19,515
<u>Milled Rice</u>					
March 1, 2004	---	4,530	146	1,657	6,333
August 1, 2004	---	2,591	105	255	2,951

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